The Local Noodle

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New Fitness Initiative: Ross Calorie Count

On February 22nd, Middlebury College Dining announced the decision to introduce calorie counts on the menus at Ross, citing concerns that Middlebury might lose it's long-held #1 spot on the U.S. News ranking of skinniest student bodies. While most institutions of higher education tend to focus on more traditional metrics of success, such as sports or academics, Middlebury College continues to rely on the toned (but not bulky) figures of their undergraduate population to stand out from the crowd.

"Personally, I'm all for the new changes. I'm not paying 87 grand a year for 'body positivity'," said Anna Rexy '27, an ardent proponent of the new policy. "This year, students are only averaging 10 hours of exercise per week on Strava, a concerning drop from last year's 15. I honestly think the administration is empowering survivors of eating disorders with this move, similar to how the LGBTQ+ community reclaimed the word…—wait, I don't think I can say that, actually, is this on the record?…"

Amidst this culinary chaos, the new Ross Calorie Count has become the most talked about dining hall topic, even overshadowing the infamous "Which type of meat is secretly in the vegan option?" debate. The initiative, while ostensibly aimed at promoting health, has also succeeded in turning calorie counting into a competitive sport. Students are now seen flaunting their calorie tracking apps as badges of honor, turning every meal into a strategic decision akin to a chess game—where the ultimate gambit is consuming the least calories while maximizing nutritional bragging rights. With Ross Calorie Count, Middlebury students can now seamlessly convert anxiety from exams directly into anxiety about lunch—efficiency at its finest.

This initiative aims to strengthen rapport between students by giving the community a sense of shared purpose, as peers can work together towards something bigger than themselves (which, if this plan works, will be most things). Students and faculty are encouraged to bolster the initiative through vague, passive-aggressive comments such as "You sure are hungry!" or "Leave some for the rest of us!" because tough love and microaggressions have historically been the most effective tool in aiding and abetting body dysmorphia.

FLYING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS?

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BY MARCH 8

Write-In: The Middlebury Marriage Pact Ruined My Life

Dearest Noodle,

I'm having a serious crisis and it's all because my roommate went and filled out the Middlebury Marriage Pact in my name! When I found out what she'd done, I broke down, sobbing dejectedly like a baby that sobs dejectedly when it receives bad news. She kept insisting that it was non-binding and simply "a fun way to meet new people", but I knew better than to trust her. I know that marriage is to be taken seriously, and despite some apprehensions, I'm dedicated to making this work.

However, I'm really not ready for that level of commitment. When we get married, my dear hubby is likely going to make me drop out of college and use my waitressing cash for a new desktop so he can pursue a full-time Lego Star Wars streaming career (I have a type). Fortunately, I'm all caught up on tuition loan payments, so I'd be freeing up tens of thousands of dollars for an engagement ring. My other friend, Barth, told me that the purchasing of a ring is the man's duty, but times are changing and the future is female, and the future me is in a goddamn marriage. I've since estranged myself from Barth; as a wife-to-be, I can't be wasting my time with unsupportive platonic guy friends anymore.

When my parents heard they'd be paying for a wedding to someone I haven't even met, it got ugly. My mom still collapses into tears whenever she sees me, and my dad refuses to speak to me at all. My brother said that I'm a "fucking idiot", but that's just how he is. I told him to grow up and take things more seriously, especially given the state our parents are in. I've since estranged myself from him because I won't allow myself to associate with someone who doesn't prioritize the needs of their family first.

I'm now looking for property, perhaps a farmstead in the deep Rockies or a double-wide in Iowa. A home to begin my new life with my dreamy husband. Unfortunately, the college has been uncooperative in my attempts to drop out, citing the "baseless and delusional line of reasoning" I've presented. I've since estranged myself from them too, as I will not let any institution sully the sanctity of marriage.

BARBARIC? BARBER?

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YOU THINK IT'S SO FUCKING EASY? TRY BELOW:

ECON DEPARTMENT RELEASES STATEMENT:

_____ _____will now strictly be ungilating and girating at all times due to _____ _____ _____.

Students and faculty were shocked on Friday morning when Middlebury's Economics "department" published a landmark study on _____.

"We've run the numbers, and our study definitively concludes that _____, rum and Diet Cokes directly correlate to _____ _____ _____" Professor _____ announced. "In fact, it's so bad that _____ _____ _____ _____ just like the Wu-Tang Clan. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____!"

"This is exactly what I needed," said _____ '24, while standing outside Warner Hall, barefoot, nearly naked, and _____.

Members of the Math department reached a similar conclusion. "Fake fur and laser hair removal _____ _____ _____ _____!"

"This makes me feel a lot better, because I love sharks!" said _____ '26. "In fact, it all started when I _____ _____ _____ _____ _____."

Then, _____ _____ _____ phosphate _____ _____ _____.

Thankfully, students can always rely on _____ _____ ___–and you can take that one to the bank!

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Middlebury Administration Has Had it With Theft, Plans to Spend Millions on Forming Campus Panopticon

In response to the recent surge of jacket theft plaguing Middlebury's campus, the administration has unveiled plans for a staggeringly expensive and Orwellian method of crime prevention modeled after Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon. Leaked mockups from the Johnson's Intro to Architecture class showcase an intense all campus renovation.

"The plan?" asks confused intended architecture major Arthur Iterian '26.5, "Just slap all that shit together Eastern State Penitentiary Style."

Iterian went on to elaborate that the proposal would involve all the campus buildings and parking lots being relocated to form a 2000 acre circle, surrounding a single surveillance tower:

"The concept is to allow all prisoners of an institution to be observed by a single corrections officer, without the inmates knowing whether or not they are being watched. Although it is physically impossible for the single guard to observe all the inmates' cells at once, the fact that the inmates cannot know when they are being watched motivates them to act as though they are all being watched at all times. They are effectively compelled to self-regulation. " Notes Iterian, seemingly reading off of the "Panopticon" Wikipedia page.

The "Middopticon" would be monitored by a rotating roster that includes, but is not limited to, associate-level members of the Student Investment Committee, listenerless WRMC hosts, and the "Sigma Females in STEM". If a student is spotted committing a crime from the comfortable spinning office chair of the surveillance tower, their lives will become forfeit to PubSafe's brand new Department of Capital Punishment.